

*The most famous sports ground in America hosted its final game on Sunday night. After 85 years Yankee Stadium, home to the New York Yankees baseball team, is being replaced. This report from Matthew Wells:*

It's a **bitter-sweet** weekend here at Yankee Stadium. The most famous sporting **venue** in America has been home to the country's most successful sports team ever. With 26 **World Series** wins, the Yankees have dominated baseball. But this season, the **struggling** team has failed to qualify for the final stages of the championship, for the first time in 13 years.

Fans had hoped to be celebrating the end of this **era**, and their **beloved** stadium, late next month. But the team's early exit has not **dampened** the **sense of nostalgia** around the ground.

Yankee Stadium's been much more than just a baseball ground, hosting boxing title fights, football games, and **papal masses**. The new Yankee Stadium is almost finished, right next door. But in the next few hours, 60,000 fans will be trying to grab whatever they can inside the old stadium, as **a memento** of the final game.

Matthew Wells BBC News, New York

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>bitter-sweet</b>	a combination of happy and sad
<b>venue</b>	special location or building where events happen
<b>World Series</b>	a baseball competition held in the US
<b>struggling</b>	performing poorly
<b>era</b>	historic period of time
<b>beloved</b>	much loved
<b>dampened</b>	weakened
<b>sense of nostalgia</b>	feeling of emotional connection with the past
<b>papal masses</b>	religious ceremonies performed by the Pope, the head of the Catholic church
<b>a memento</b>	a souvenir, something that reminds you of a particular place

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7626554.stm>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/09/080922\\_vankee\\_stadium.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/09/080922_vankee_stadium.shtml)